

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for transferring electrical telephony transmissions comprising:

a backplane including front and rear sides, comprising:

at least a first slot on said front side and rear side of said backplane and  
at least a second slot on said front side and said rear side of said backplane,  
said first and second slots on said front and rear sides of said backplane  
respectively, configured for supporting respective front and rear cards, each  
of said slots including at least a first connection area and at least a second  
connection area;

said at least a first connection area and said backplane configured for  
supporting 32 bit PCI communications therebetween;

said at least a second connection area coupled with said at least a first  
connection area and said backplane is configured for supporting 64 bit PCI  
communications therebetween;

said at least one second connection area including at least one through  
connector for facilitating at least electrical telephony transmissions between  
at least one rear card in said at least one first slot and either of said at least  
one rear card or said at least one front card in said second slot.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said backplane includes at least one  
control link.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said backplane includes a 64 bit PCI  
backplane.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, additionally comprising a plurality of front cards and  
a plurality of rear cards, said front and rear cards in said respective first and  
second slots on said front and rear sides of said backplane.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein at least one of said front cards is in communication with said control link, and configured for controlling at least electrical telephony transmissions from at least one rear card.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said backplane is configured for transporting electrical telephony transmissions.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said electrical telephony transmissions are selected from the group comprising: T1, T3, E1, E3, J1, STS1.

8. An apparatus for transferring electrical telephony transmissions comprising:  
a backplane including front and rear sides, comprising:

at least a plurality of bussed traces;

at least first and second slots on said front and rear sides of said backplane respectively for supporting front and rear cards, each of said slots including at least a first connection area and at least a second connection area;

said at least a first connection area comprising a plurality of first connector openings;

said at least a second connection area comprising a plurality of second connector openings, at least one of said connector openings providing connectivity to said plurality of bussed traces;

said at least one second connection area including at least one through connector for facilitating at least electrical telephony transmissions between at least one rear card in said at least one first slot and either of said at least one rear card or said at least one front card in said second slot along at least one of said plurality of bussed traces.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first connector openings are defined in accordance with a P1 connector in a cPCI standard.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said second connector openings include at least power and ground openings, said power and ground openings arranged in accordance with the power and ground openings in the P2 connector of a cPCI standard.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first connector openings include at least power and ground openings, said power and ground openings arranged in accordance with the power and ground openings in the P1 connector of a cPCI standard.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said at least one of said plurality of bussed traces includes a control link.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein at least one of said front cards is in communication with said control link, and configured for controlling at least electrical telephony transmissions from at least one rear card.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said electrical telephony transmissions are selected from the group comprising: T1, T3, E1, E3, J1, STS1.

15. An apparatus for transferring electrical telephony transmissions comprising:  
a backplane including front and rear sides, comprising:

at least a first slot on said front and rear sides of said backplane and at least a second slot on said front and rear sides of said backplane, said first and second slots on said front and rear sides of said backplane respectively

configured for supporting respective front and rear cards, each of said slots including at least a first connection area and at least a second connection area;

5       said at least a first connection area and said backplane configured for supporting 32 bit PCI communications therebetween;

      said at least a second connection area coupled with said at least a first connection area and said backplane for supporting 64 bit PCI communications therebetween;

10       said at least one second connection area including at least one bussed connector on said rear side for facilitating at least electrical telephony transmissions between at least one rear card in said at least one first slot and either of said at least one rear card or said at least one front card in said second slot.

15       16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said backplane includes at least one control link.

      17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said backplane includes a 64 bit PCI backplane.

20       18. The apparatus of claim 15, additionally comprising a plurality of front cards and a plurality of rear cards, said front and rear cards in said respective first and second slots on said front and rear sides of said backplane.

25       19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein at least one of said front cards is in communication with said control trace, and configured for controlling at least electrical telephony transmissions from at least one rear card.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said electrical telephony transmissions are selected from the group comprising: T1, T3, E1, E3, J1, STS1.

21. An apparatus for transferring electrical telephony transmissions comprising:

5 a backplane including front and rear sides, comprising:

at least a plurality of bussed traces;

10 at least first and second slots on said front and rear sides of said backplane respectively for supporting front and rear cards, each of said slots including at least a first connection area and at least a second connection area;

said at least a first connection area comprising a plurality of first connector openings;

15 said at least a second connection area comprising a plurality of second connector openings, at least one of said second connector openings providing connectivity to said plurality of bussed traces;

said at least one second connection area including at least one bussed connector for facilitating at least electrical telephony transmissions between at least one rear card in said at least one first slot and either of said at least one rear card or said at least one front card in said second slot.

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22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said first connector openings are defined in accordance with a P1 connector in a cPCI standard.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said second connector openings include  
25 at least power and ground openings, said power and ground openings arranged in accordance with the power and ground openings in the P2 connector of a cPCI standard.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said first connector openings include at least power and ground openings, said power and ground openings arranged in accordance with the power and ground openings in the P1 connector of a cPCI standard.

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25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said at least one of said plurality of bussed traces includes a control link.

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26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein at least one of said front cards is in communication with said control link, and configured for controlling at least electrical telephony transmissions from at least one rear card.

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27. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said electrical telephony transmissions are selected from the group comprising: T1, T3, E1, E3, J1, STS1.